Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 1, 7, 13, and 19. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of communicating with a user of a display screen comprising:

proportionally decreasing brightness of a first area on the display screen; and

increasing the brightness of a second area on the display screen by a fixed amount; and

wherein the first area and the second area are defined independently of contents of the display screen.

2.   (Original) A method of Claim 1 wherein the first area is configured to communicate a message to the viewer.

3.   (Original) A method of Claim 1 wherein the second area is configured to communicate a message to the viewer.

4.   (Original) A method of Claim 1 wherein the first area and the second area are configured to communicate a message to the viewer.

5.   (Original) A method of Claim 1 wherein the fixed amount is greater than a brightness of a brightest location within the first area.

6.   (Original) A method of Claim 1 wherein said proportionally decreasing and increasing communicates an abnormal situation.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of communicating with a viewer of a multi-component color display screen comprising:

    proportionally decreasing the brightness of a color component within a first area on the display screen; ~~and~~

    increasing the brightness of the color component within a second area on the display screen by a fixed amount; and

    wherein the first area and the second area are defined independently of contents of the display screen.

8. (Original) A method of Claim 7 wherein the first area is configured to communicate a message to the viewer.

9. (Original) A method of Claim 7 wherein the second area is configured to communicate a message to the viewer.

10. (Original) A method of Claim 7 wherein the first area and the second area are configured to communicate a message to the viewer.

11. (Original) A method of Claim 7 wherein the fixed amount is greater than a brightness of a brightest location for the color component within the first area.

12. (Original) A method of Claim 7 wherein said steps of proportionally decreasing and increasing communicates an abnormal situation.

13. (Currently Amended) System communication device comprising:

    a display screen; ~~and~~

    a computing device coupled to the display screen, the computing device, in response to an event, proportionally decreasing the brightness of a first area on the display screen and increasing the brightness of a second area on the display screen by a fixed amount; and

wherein the first area and the second area are defined independently of contents of the display screen.

14. (Original) A device of Claim 13 wherein the first area is configured to communicate a message.

15. (Original) A device of Claim 13 wherein the second area is configured to communicate a message.

16. (Original) A device of Claim 13 wherein the first area and the second area are configured to communicate a message.

17. (Original) A device of Claim 13 wherein the fixed amount is greater than a brightness of a brightest location within the first area.

18. (Original) A device of Claim 13 wherein the event is an abnormal situation.

19. (Currently Amended) A device of Claim 13 wherein the display screen is a multi-component color display, and the computing device, in response to an event, proportionally decreases the brightness of a color component within the first area on the display screen and increases the brightness of the color component within a second area on the display screen by a fixed amount, such that a translucent film overlays original contents of the screen display at the time of the event such that the original contents remain visible, wherein the first area and the second area are defined independently of contents of the display screen.

20. (Original) A device of Claim 19 wherein the translucent film is tinted to a predetermined color signifying system status.